



<u>News</u> Release

Office of Communications
John B. Connally Building • 301 Tarrow, Suite 364 • College Station, TX 77840-7896
Phone 979.458.6606 • Fax 979.458.6610 • E-mail newsmedia@tfs.tamu.edu

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 16, 2011

News Alert: Learn how to protect your home from wildfire at community meetings

LEANDER and Cedar Park Residents interested in learning how to protect themselves from wildfire are invited to a community meeting this month.

The meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 25, at Winkley Elementary School, 2100 Pow Wow, Leander.

Representatives from Texas Forest Service and local fire departments will be on hand to answer questions and talk about what you can do to protect your home and family from wildfire.

For example, you can reduce potential losses by adopting Firewise landscaping practices 100 to 200 feet around your home. That includes moving firewood and clearing dead and dense vegetation.

Wildland Urban Interface Specialist Lexi Maxwell stressed that wildfires are a community-wide problem, which means reducing risks to homes and property is everyone's responsibility.

"More than 80 percent of wildfires in Texas occur within 2 miles of a community," Maxwell said, reminding residents that roughly 95 percent of wildfires are started by humans. "We want to encourage residents to take proactive measures that could end up saving lives and property."

For more information, visit <u>www.texasfirestorm.org</u> and <u>www.texasfirewise.org</u>.

Meeting Details:

What: Town hall meeting - Firewise principles

When: Wednesday, May 25, at 7 p.m.

Where: Winkley Elementary School, 2100 Pow Wow, Leander

Contact:

Heather Wrightington, Leander Fire Dept 512-528-2848, hwrightington@leandertx.gov

Lexi Maxwell, Wildland Urban Interface Specialist 979-220-1455, Imaxwell@tfs.tamu.edu

Writer:

April Saginor, Communications Specialist 979-458-6619 office, 979-255-0591 cell, asaginor@tfs.tamu.edu

Texas Forest Service communications staff can be reached after hours at newsmedia@tfs.tamu.edu.